<u>**Application No.: 10/769,884**</u>   <u>**Docket No.: 4444-076**</u>

<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1.   (currently amended)   Process ~~for~~ compression of <u>compressing</u> a block ~~(310) of~~ <u>having</u> a size L x H of a sequence of images, ~~characterized in that it comprises,~~ <u>the method comprising performing the following steps,</u> in a repetitive manner, [[for]]<u>on</u> said block:

    - ~~a search step (240)~~ <u>searching,</u> in one of the images of the sequence of images, for the zone of L x H pixels that is the most similar to said block;

    - ~~a step of determination (245)~~ <u>determining</u> whether the resemblance between said zone and said block responds to predetermined criteria <u>all of which depend on the L x H dimensions of the block</u>;

    - if said resemblance responds to said criteria, ~~a step of storage (255) of the~~ <u>storing a</u> motion vector which indicates the distance between the block and the most similar zone found;

    - if said resemblance does not respond to said criteria, and if the block does not have a predetermined minimum size, ~~a step of~~ <u>cutting</u> ~~out (280, 281)~~ said block into sub-blocks ~~(320, 330, 340, 350)~~ and <u>performing</u> a supplemental repetition [[for]]<u>on</u> each of said sub-blocks, and

    - if said resemblance does not respond to said criteria, and if said block has a predetermined minimum size, ~~a step of storage (266) of~~ <u>storing</u> the block <u>so that while the block is being stored</u> in the course of which the block is compressed without reference to a reference image.

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2.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~wherein the searching step includes[[-]] ~~in the course of the search step (240), there are determined~~conjointly (a) determining a transformation and a zone ~~which~~that ~~supply~~supplies the transformed zone which is the most similar to said block,[[-]] ~~in the course of the determination step (245), it is determined~~ determining, during the determining step (a), (b) whether the resemblance between said transformed zone and said block responds to predetermined criteria, and

~~-in the course of the step of storage of~~the storing step includes storing the vector [[(255)]] data representative of said transformation, if said zone after said transformation is the zone most closely resembling ~~one, data representative of said transformation are stored~~the vector.

3.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, in the course of the search step (240), one searches in a plurality of images of the sequence of images~~ wherein the searching step includes searching in a plurality of images of the sequence of images, for the zone of L x H pixels that is the most similar to said block, and ~~in the course of the storage~~ the vector storing step ~~of the vector~~ [[(255)]], ~~one stores~~includes storing data representative of the image which ~~comprise~~comprises said zone.

4.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, in the course of~~further including searching only in the preceding image of the sequence of images during the search step ~~(240), one searches only in the preceding image of the sequence of images,~~for the zone of L x H pixels that is the most similar to said block.

5.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~

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that, in the course of further including cutting, during the cutting out step (280, 281), one cuts out said block [[(310)]]into two sub-blocks (320, 330) of having the same dimensions.

6.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim [[1]]5, characterized in that, in the course of each step of wherein the cutting out (280, 281), one cuts out step includes cutting out the block [[(310)]]or the sub-block[[(320)]], on the one hand, vertically and, on the other hand, horizontally and, in the course of a selection selecting, during the selecting step, including selecting (282), one selects the cutting out which optimizes the overall resemblance of the sub-blocks generated by each of said acts of cutting out, with zones of said images of the image sequence.

7.-10. (cancelled)

11.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 2, characterized in that, in the course of the search step (240), one searches in a plurality of images of the sequence of images wherein the searching step includes searching in a plurality of images of the sequence of images, for the zone of L x H pixels that is the most similar to said block, and in the course of the storage the vector storing step of the vector [[(255)]], one stores includes storing data representative of the image which comprise comprises said zone.

12.   (currently amended)   Process according to claim 2, characterized in that, in the course of wherein the searching step (240), one searches includes searching only in the preceding image of the sequence of images, for the zone of L x H pixels that is the most similar to said block.

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13. (currently amended) Process according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that, in the course of~~ wherein the searching step ~~(240), one searches~~ includes searching only in the preceding image of the sequence of images, for the zone of L x H pixels the most similar to said block.

14. (currently amended) Process according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that, in the course of~~ wherein the cutting out step ~~(280, 281), one cuts~~ includes cutting out said block [[(310)]] into two sub-blocks ~~(320, 330) of~~ having the same dimensions.

15. (currently amended) Process according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that, in the course of~~ wherein the cutting out step ~~(280, 281), one cuts~~ includes cutting out said block [[(310)]] into two sub-blocks ~~(320, 330) of~~ having the same dimensions.

16. (currently amended) Process according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that, in the course of~~ wherein the cutting out step ~~(280, 281), one cuts~~ includes cutting out said block [[(310)]] into two sub-blocks ~~(320, 330) of~~ having the same dimensions.

17. (new) A computer arrangement for performing the method of claim 1.

18. (new) A device for compressing a block having a size L x H, the block being a sequence of images, the device comprising:

a treatment arrangement for controlling, in a repetitive manner, for each block:

a search arrangement for searching, in one of the images of the sequence of images, for a zone of L x H pixels that most resembles said block;

a determining arrangement for determining whether the resemblance between said zone and said block meets predetermined criteria, all of which depend on the L x H dimensions of the block;

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a storage arrangement for (a) storing a motion vector indicating the distance between the block and the most similar zone found in response to the determining arrangement determining the resemblance meets the criteria, and (b) compressing the block without reference to a reference image and storing the compressed block in response to the determining arrangement determining the resemblance does not meet said criteria and said block having at least a predetermined minimum size; and

a cutting arrangement for cutting said block into sub blocks and for performing a supplemental repetition for each of said blocks, the cutting arrangement being arranged for performing the cutting and supplemental repetition operations in response to the resemblance not meeting said criteria and the block not having the predetermined minimum size.

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